

REMARKS

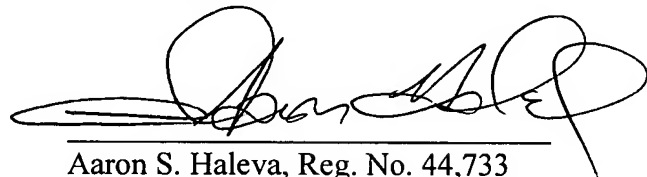
The present application is the United States national stage filing of corresponding international application number PCT/EP2004/051891, filed on August 24, 2004, which claims priority to and benefit of European Application No. 03425582.8, filed on September 9, 2003.

Claims 1-12 have been cancelled without prejudice as to subject matter or to refile. New Claims 13-26 have been added. New claims 13-26 are essentially former claims 1-12 rewritten to correct stylistic errors and to conform to current U.S. practice. No new matter has been added. Support for new claims 13-26 is found in the original claim set and throughout the disclosure. As such, claims 13-26 are currently pending.

No fee is believed to be due with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

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